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ABSTRACT

Nine sets of encyclopedias are reviewed and evaluated for their treatment of the life and history of the black American. While all nine sets surveyed include comprehensive general articles on the topic of the Afro-American, each is believed to be a summary treatment offering limited information and little understanding to the student reader on researcher. The number of pages of the general article and the eminence of the black historian author is not considered as real a measure as how much material about the black American appears within separate entries on other topics. Another criteria in this connection, apart from integration of relevant material, is the number and range of separate and specific entries on blacks of significance. An important factor in the evaluation is the question of whether the major school topics in which the role of black Americans has been commonly distorted reflect the lastest historical scholarship and revisionist interpretations. Only one set is found to fulfill the goal of a truly integrated general reference encyclopedia which succeeds in doing historical justice to the black Americans and demonstrates that this can be done without diminishing its overall quantitative and qualitative standards. (Author/KSM)

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THE TREATMENT OF BLACK AMERICANS IN CURRENT ENCYCLOPEDIAS

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A survey of adequa cy and accuracy in nine contemporary encyclopedias

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In history books, the black is shown as a "slave," and often the amiable and pleasant-to-have servant. Here is the subservient servant in a typical 18th Century scene. (Perhaps he might have "served" at George Washington's estate, Mt. Vernon. Boy! Go to look at it and notice their quarters.)

INTRODUCTION

One of the essential reading and research tools in the schools is the encyclopedia. Students turn to it for background material and for limited "in-depth" study of classroom topics. But no less than the social-studies and history texts of the distant and sometimes even the recent past, encyclopedias have failed to provide adequate and accurate material dealing with the life and history of the black American. Nor has the consequence of this failure been any less fatal to the understanding between black and white, both as student and as adult citizen. The terrible repercussions from this can be seen flowing everywhere about us.

Lerone Bennett, Jr., one of the leading black historians, albeit overlooked, described this as part of the fourth "R" in American education, *racism*. Among other things, this racism is expressed not only in terms of segregated classrooms, but also in terms of learning materials which either omitted altogether or distorted information and ideas about the black American. The price for this fault in American education even now cannot be calculated, while the racial crisis continues unabated.

At this time in the history of education, however, there has been a virtual explosion in the literature of the black. It has indeed become as much a problem of what to exclude as it is one of what to include amid the floodtide which gushes into the education-materials market almost daily. Yet, among important learning materials, the encyclopedias have been the slowest to catch up, and, even now, only one of the nine "top-quality" sets used in the school libraries can be characterized both as a first-rate general reference work as well as a first-rate treatment of the black American's life and history.

It is true that all nine sets surveyed by this writer now include comprehensive general articles on *the* topic of the Afro-American, a topic not present in previous editions. Still, a single article "covering" a subject which is itself related to so many other topics becomes, inevitably, a summary treatment which offers limited information and no understanding to the student reader or researcher.

Whether, then, a particular set of encyclopedias offers a quantitative and qualitative presentation of the black American's life and history is

determined neither by how many pages its general article is nor by the eminence of the black historian who writes it (John Hope Franklin is listed as author or coauthor of such articles appearing in more than one set by one publisher, as well as in the set of a competing publisher; just why there is the notion that the surely eminent Dr. Franklin almost alone qualifies among our black historians is hard to fathom). Rather, the real measure is how much material about the black American appears within separate entries on other topics.

For example, will the student researching the abolitionist movement find information about the black abolitionists in the entry on "abolitionists" or does that only appear in the general article on "Afro-American," which he may or may not turn to read?

Is there a separate entry on Frederick Douglass as a cross reference?

Does the index include under "abolitionism" the subtopics of "Afro-American" and "Frederick Douglass," as well as names of a number of other black abolitionist leaders?

While the general article may, and usually does, include a paragraph *listing* a number of contemporary black writers, will the student discover these writers in the entry on "U.S. literature," and will he find individual biographical entries *discussing* at least a dozen or so particularly distinguished writers?

For another criterion in evaluating the encyclopedias in this connection, apart from integration of relevant material, is the number and range of separate and specific entries on blacks of significance?

In one encyclopedia, the student will read in the general article that "Frederick Douglass was a great black leader." Nothing more is said about this statesman; nor will the reader find an individual biographical entry to learn why he was "a great black leader." Very few of the encyclopedias contain even half the number of separate entries which should be included in the sets.

An important factor in any evaluation of the encyclopedias' treatment of the black American is the question whether the major school topics in which the role of black Americans has been commonly distorted reflect the latest historical scholarship and revisionist interpretations. It is disappointing, if not unsurprising, to report that within indvidual sets there appear current scholarship and interpretation in the general article on the black American, while separate topical entries offer discredited scholarship of the past. Thus, in a number of sets, the reader gets a negative description of Reconstruction governments "dominated by ignorant blacks whose revengeful conduct caused white Southerners so much grief that they had no choice but to organize the Ku Klux Klan [as a response]." Yet, in the

general article of the same encyclopedia, there appears the modern interpretation of the positive contributions of both the blacks and the Reconstruction governments.

Perhaps, if Dr. Franklin were the author of the entry on "Reconstruction" (about which he is as distinguished an authority as any historian in America today), this kind of inconsistency and inaccuracy would be avoided. Other topics, too, are variously neglected or distorted among several of the sets: abolitionists; Civil War; explorations; free Negro; Emancipation Proclamation; Ku Klux Klan; Harlem Renaissance; labor movement; segregation, North and South; slavery in the U.S.

All the publishers of American encyclopedias are to be commended for the obvious attempt in their latest editions to make up for failures which have for so long characterized their treatment of the black American. Nevertheless, only one set (and this is not true of other sets offered by the same publisher) fulfills the goal of a truly integrated general reference encyclopedia. Given a "top-quality" rating by the publication *General Encyclopedias in Print 1968-9: A Comparative Analysis,* used by most librarians in evaluating encyclopedias, this particularly impressive set nevertheless succeeds in doing "historical justice" to the black Americans and demonstrates that this can be done without diminishing its overall quantitative and qualitative standards.

One of the very highly regarded encyclopedias has published a separate and specialized set of volumes dealing with the black American. But this is a reversion to segregated learning materials, and it also misses the crucial point that American life and history are one piece of cloth, in which the role and participation of the blacks is so interwoven into the warp and woof of the American fabric that to separate black and white history is to perpetuate the historical injustice of the past in American education.

It is true that the educational market is crowded with just such "separatist" materials, with some of it coming from black authors and publishers. While in this writer's professional judgment this situation is undesirable and not to be encouraged much longer by well-intentioned and well-justified supporters of black-studies curricula beyond its present peak, there may indeed be some measure of justification on the basis of compensating for the gaps of the past. But, in any case, publishers of general encyclopedias cannot make up for their failures by offering the materials in specialized publications which so many school libraries cannot afford and are not likely to include. The basic general reference works have the obligation to be self-contained "products" of scholarship and history. At present, however, some sets are more equal than others in the achievement of that goal.

Then, of course, there's the benign, kind, beaten, but HAPPY Uncle Tom image.

BRITANNICA JUNIOR ENCYCLOPAEDIA

(Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1969)

One of the boasts of the publishers of *Britannica Jr.* is that it is "published with the editorial advice of the faculties of the University of Chicago and the University Laboratory School." With this credential, one approaches it with the highest expectations. It comes, then, as a disappointment to find that as far as its treatment of black history is concerned, this encyclopedia is both inadequate and inaccurate. The inaccuracy is due largely to the fact that some of the material in *Britannica Jr.* ignores the latest historical scholarship, although its senior set, *Britannica,* reflects it well.

The encyclopedia's "ready reference index" betrays its limited coverage. There are 35 entries, but these include such superfluous listings as "Alabama," "carpetbaggers," and "Virginia," and the index lists only four names of blacks. It is clear that a student seeking to do the most elementary research on black history and life will not get very far with this set. There are no references to such men as Marcus Garvey and Roy Wilkins—even in the reference index. Indeed, this set has the smallest number of such entries and references of any set included in this survey.

The general article on blacks is good. It begins with a report on the blacks who accompanied the earliest explorers of the New World—like Estevanico, who led an expedition into what is now New Mexico and Arizona. That the blacks who entered the first English settlements came with the same indentured-servant status as whites, and not as slaves, is pointed out at once. A drawing of Crispus Attucks appears next to an engraving of the Boston Massacre, so that this first black hero gets his due. The role of the blacks in the Revolution is confined to a statement that 5,000 blacks were enrolled in the army—but no mention is made of any of the black heroes, such as Salem Poor in the Battle of Bunker Hill. This kind of reference is important in a text directed to younger readers. The entry on the American Revolution does not pick up these gaps, nor does it at all integrate black history there, so that a child doing research on the Revolution who does not turn to the article on black history will not even

find out about Crispus Attucks. There, the reference to the Boston Massacre is that "several men were killed and others were wounded."

In its coverage of slavery, the major uprisings of Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey, and Nat Turner are cited (although only Turner's name appears in the index volume), after it is properly pointed out that "Because the Negro slave was without human rights by law, the only way he could defend himself was by fighting." No indication of the cruelty or immorality of slavery is given. In fact, a positive image is built up in the reader's mind when the text relates that the slaves held high-level jobs including "engineers, typesetters, and mechanics." The achievements of free blacks are chronicled, as well as the restrictions imposed upon them for no reason other than their color.

Like too much else in this article, the discusssion of the Abolitionists is too brief to be useful for even the most limited research. However, the important observation that "Negroes themselves took an active part in the agitation for freedom" is made. While the important black abolitionists are mentioned, their work is not even suggested. Frederick Douglass gets nothing more than the mention of his name. Even in the separate entry on the abolitionists, Douglass is dismissed in one unrevealing sentence: "Another escaped slave, Frederick Douglass, became a well-known abolitionist." While there are entries on individual white abolitionists, there are none dealing with the blacks in that movement. It seems somewhat curious to include Benjamin Banneker in the context of abolitionists, as this encyclopedia does, and then ignore his contributions as a mathematician and his work on Jefferson's Commission to plan the city of Washington, D.C.

The topic of Reconstruction is omitted in the general article on black Americans. In the separate entry on Reconstruction appears the old, outdated historical interpretation. The Southern white is shown as a victim of the blacks in Reconstruction governments: "Most of the Negroes did not have the slightest idea of how to govern a state," the text says. "Moreover, they were usually controlled by the 'carpetbaggers,' adventurers from the North and West. For these reasons, the governments were inefficient. . . . There was much corruption. . . ." A young reader brought up on this description is not likely to have much confidence in blacks seeking public office. In connection with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan which ". . . often used force against Negroes and carpetbaggers," the article even dares to suggest that there was "blame on both sides," as though blacks seeking their rights could somehow be blameworthy for the brutality employed by the KKK!

Not incidentally, this encyclopedia entry refers to the "War Between the States," the traditional phrase that history-textbook publishers have

used to placate the Southern market. (In this reviewer's earlier study of textbooks, only two publishers used this compromising phrase.)

There is a detailed discussion of blacks in the American labor movement in the general article. The topic, "Military Service," is an account of black participation in and contribution to America's wars, apparently based on the assumption that in associating blacks with the defense of the U.S., positive images are built up in the child's mind.

Three black organizations—NAACP, Urban League, and CORE—are mentioned as groups organized in opposition to segregation. This is not enough: a 1969 edition should deal with the wide scope and newer goals of these and other black organizations. By 1969, CORE hardly seems as important as the newer, albeit militant, groups. Indeed, the rise of black militancy is overlooked in this encyclopedia.

As much space is devoted to "Entertainment and Sports" as to any other topic in the article—in some cases, even more space. It is questionable whether "in no field" has the rise of the Negro been as rapid or dramatic as sports during the past three decades. In any case, it tells us something about the presentation when, even here, the passages mention no athletes of the 1960s.

Whatever strength *Britannica Jr.* may have as a general encyclopedia for younger readers, its treatment of the blacks in America is sorely lacking and simply does not measure up to the standards of the 1970s.

COLLIER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

(Crowell-Collier Educational Corporation, 1969)

Together with *Britannica* and *Americana, Collier's* ranks high in prestige and popularity among encyclopedias. It is, indeed, a top-quality set, and it deserves its position. Seeking, inevitably, the "best" authors, Collier's comes up unsurprisingly with Dr. John Hope Franklin as author of its general article on black Americans. Dr. Franklin is also one of the authors of the competing *Britannica* article, to say nothing of the fact that he is listed as author and/or consultant in several other sets.

Under the circumstances, one is tempted to ask how Franklin manages to do justice to competing employers, particularly in the cases of *Collier's* and *Britannica*. The general article he produced for *Collier's* is 17 pages, one of the longest pieces among the sets included in this study. Its organization, and even its wording, closely follows Franklin's *From Slavery to Freedom,* which remains the most definitive study of black history many years after it established Franklin's eminence. Two examples of the parallel found in *Collier's* and his one-volume work will make the point. Both

volumes contain a topical heading of "The Negro in the New World." The statement "As early as 1501, Spain relinquished its earlier ban and permitted Negroes to go into the Spanish lands of the New World," appears on page 278 in *Collier's* and on page 46 of the latest edition of *From Slavery to Freedom*. On the same page in *Collier's* and on page 56 in his book, Franklin writes that "The voyage to America, popularly referred to as the 'Middle Passage,' was a veritable nightmare." Our purpose in pointing this out is not so much to embarrass Franklin as to chide the publishers of encyclopedias. While Franklin is certainly a leading black historian, the reliance on him, when there are many other competent historians available, imposes limitations upon the black history covered by encyclopedia accounts. Even among black historians there are differences in interpretations of historical events. Since all of history is interpretation of evidence, historians bring to their writings varying judgments and, therefore, varying "facts." A pluralism of views should be an important consideration for encyclopedia publishers.

In the *Collier's* passage on "Life As a Slave," Franklin, true to form, does not deal with any of the brutality of slavery. He devotes a whole paragraph to some of the more relaxing elements of slave life: ". . . the men were permitted to fish or hunt; and some favored slaves attended races, fairs, and militia musters. The summer 'lay-by' and Christmas were occasions for relaxation on the part of all, while weddings, anniversaries, and other special events gave slaves opportunities to turn away from work temporarily." Other historians might not be inclined to so dull the edge of slavery's dehumanization.

The passages on "Reconstruction and Negro Freedom" reflect Franklin's greatest strength. He carried on W. E. B. DuBois' pioneering revisionist history of that much-distorted period. It should be pointed out, however, that Franklin's article in *Britannica* offers only a short single paragraph on this subject, while here the material is developed to almost a page and a half. As a matter of fact, the *Collier's* article offers more detailed material, especially in connection with the struggle for equality after the Civil War, than does *Britannica*. The very headings in *Collier's* suggest this distinction: "Post-Reconstruction and Frustration," "New Techniques to Secure Old Rights," "New Directions in the Late 1960s" all convey a greater acknowledgment of the militant turn of the black struggle than Franklin has made in any of his other encyclopedia writings. Here, violence and black militants are fully described, while in other articles they are largely glossed over or omitted altogther.

However, there is a strong inconsistency and, therefore, a weakness in *Collier's* treatment of blacks in American history. While, on the one hand,

From the 19th and into the 20th Century, the black was presented as the giggling, banjo-strumming, low comedian who clogged most of the day. Whites put on charcoal to imitate this image.

the reader gets the positive picture of Reconstruction in Franklin's general article on blacks, he gets a completely different interpretation in the separate article on Reconstruction in another volume. There, one short paragraph suggests that "These governments were in many ways progressive." But, then, under the topic heading, "Weaknesses of Reconstruction Governments," four paragraphs describe the negative aspects. This is capped by a passage on the "Legacy of Reconstruction" which states that "Certainly, Reconstruction did provide the South with a justification for all that it did toward . . . curtailing Negro suffrage." Considering that this includes the violence of the Ku Klux Klan as well as every device of legal trickery, such a proposition of justification is crude and cruel.

Thus, while the general article on blacks represents Franklin's best contribution, the failure of the editors to carry through beyond that one article prevents *Collier's* from being rated outstanding in our survey. Apart from the inconsistencies already indicated, there is the fact of failure to seriously integrate material throughout the set. There is no reference to black figures or events in any number of other articles where it might have been very proper to do so.

The article on "American Painting" contains no references to black painters or their works. Even such a particularly appropriate topic as the American Revolution makes no mention of blacks at any point. Not even Crispus Attucks gets space in the paragraph on the Boston Massacre. While he is acknowledged in the general article on blacks, the real measure of an encyclopedia's integration of material is whether such acknowledgments appear in the separate articles on other topics. Thus, the student researcher on the American Revolution in *Collier's* would not only not discover Attucks, but he would also fail to learn about the antislavery proposal in the debate on the Declaration of Independence. In a long passage describing the battle of Bunker Hill, no reference is made to Salem Poor, whose killing of Major Pitcairn was a significant event in that episode. That a 15-page article on the American Revolution should neglect to include any references to the black role is a serious failure.

The article on America does mention, as few encyclopedias do, "the Negro Estebanico (Estaven) who accompanied de Vaca" on his explorations. But then the article fails to relate that it was this black man who discovered what is now New Mexico and Arizona. Nor does it mention Matthew Henson in the passage describing exploration of the Arctic.

There is, nevertheless, in this same article a really excellent passage on the black's forced immigration. "The fact that the Negro was uprooted both culturally and geographically meant that his experience of adjustment to slavery in the environment of the New World was a more drastic and

cataclysmic experience than that undergone by either of the other racial-cultural elements. Out of the nostalgic depths of this experience came a richness and variety of native culture, which have given to America some of its strongest folk expressions—elements of religious ritual, popular poetry and legends, music, and plastic forms."

Graphically, the general article on the black in *Collier's* is one of the most attractive among the sets included in our study. Photographs are plentiful and very well laid out.

The bibliography at the end of the article is most inadequate for a set of this stature in scholarship. The editors proudly state that it is a strength of this set that all bibliographies are grouped in a separate unit in the index volume rather than offering a complete list at the end of the articles. It is true that the list for American history is a superb one, but it does include only one title in each topical category that deals with blacks. While the title in each case is indeed an excellent choice, it is, nevertheless, not enough for any serious pursuit of black history. As a matter of fact, in the last group, "19th and 20th Centuries," there is no reference at all to a work about blacks.

Collier's carries relatively few separate articles about black figures or events. Only the most major topics are so treated. Yet, even on this score, there is the fact that there is no article on the Underground Railroad and the index reference directs the reader to the article on the Fugitive Slave Law which contains but a single sentence.

On the whole, as fine a set as *Collier's* is as a general reference work, considerable revision is required before it can be rated as an outstanding source for information about blacks in America. Among the sets surveyed, it rates somewhere in the middle among all sets and below its two nearest competitors, *Britannica* and *Americana,* although its general article is somewhat superior in some respects than that of either of these.

COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

(F. E. Compton Co., Division of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1968)

This encyclopedia offers the least satisfactory presentation of black Americans among all sets covered in this survey. The general article on blacks offers practically no useful black history. For example, in the opening paragraph, there is a general discussion of blacks who have "made important contributions to national life. Many have achieved greatness." Most of the named figures are contemporary. "In earlier years, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were notable." Notable for what? The ambitious reader can look for a separate entry to find out, but he will not find

any. Then he can turn to the "fact-index," which appears at the end of each volume. In volume "D," he will find the brazenly inadequate presentation that Frederick Douglass was "Once a slave, long chief leader of American Negroes."

Nor can the reader gain much from turning to the cross references to separate entries, in the hope of getting significant black history. The article on "Reconstruction," for example, altogether fails to reflect the latest scholarship. Instead, it offers some of the old prejudices which have plagued American history for so long: "Most of the state offices were taken over by the illiterate Negroes and Scalawags" is both a misstatement of fact as well as an emotionally-charged phrasing. Then, "The new governments in the Southern states immediately plunged into an orgy of corruption and waste that further impoverished the South. . . . Under these incompetent state governments there was little protection for life or property. In some places irresponsible Negroes became a definite social menace. It was this condition which prompted the secret orders of Southern Whites [one of the rare texts this reviewer has seen where "White" is capitalized—as though to assure the reader that the capital "N" for Negro is no evidence of superiority!] . . . such as the KKK."

This completely negative picture of the Reconstruction governments and the role of the blacks has no parallel among general texts published in the 1960s.

In the general article itself, the first attempt to include some note of black history turns out, again, to reflect discredited scholarship: "The first Negroes in the American Colonies were 20 slaves brought to Virginia in 1619." It has been established that the first blacks to arrive were indentured servants and not slaves. Every text of the 1960s reflects this current scholarship except this 1968 edition of Compton's.

About half the general article is devoted to "The Long Fight for Negro Rights." As well done and useful as this is, it leaves the reader with the impression that all there is to black history is the problem of achieving freedom and equality. While this is indeed very much part of American history, the black heritage is much more than that.

The separate entry "United States History" does not make up for what the general article on the black American lacks, because it fails to include black-related events. Indeed, one of the few references to blacks in that article simply repeats the misstatement that "The year 1619 is also notable for the arrival of the first Negro *slaves* on the American continent." Nor do any of the other separate pieces on American life and culture include mention of blacks. Under the circumstances, the failure of the general article on black Americans is fatal.

There is a useful, full-length section at the end of the general article citing "Books About the Negro." The list is broken into sections for Younger Children, for Older Boys and Girls, and for Advanced Students and Teachers. In view of the utter inadequacy of this encyclopedia, one can only hope that its readers will turn to these other sources.

The limited index references to blacks in the set confirm the set's inadequacy.

The editors of this set should be commended for including a table of Spingarn Medal Winners in the fact-index. This offers the reader a quick review of blacks who have made outstanding contributions to American life by their own standards rather than those of whites.

ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA

(Grolier Educational Corporation, 1969)

The *Americana*—a very prestigious encyclopedia perhaps outranked only by *Britannica,* and found in most secondary-school and public libraries —devotes 12 pages to a general article, "Negro in America," and has more than 300 separate entries dealing with black topics.

The general article reflects the most current historical scholarship, relating, in its opening statement, the fact that blacks accompanied the Spanish explorers during the 15th and 16th Centuries in their forays into the New World. The following three paragraphs present a detailed and graphic description of the slave trade. A section on "Slavery in English Continental Colonies" follows that includes the often-overlooked fact that one of the earliest slave owners was Anthony Johnson, a black man.

In the "Era of the American Revolution," the coverage is established with the opening statement that "Negroes served with distinction in the Revolutionary Army in New England from the beginning of the war."

There is a balanced treatment of slavery in the section entitled "Institution of Slavery." It states, in part, that "Treatment . . . ranged from a decorous paternalism to extreme cruelty." The ways in which slaves responded to their plight are told. The useful, two-paragraph section on slave codes mentions the "elaborate rationalization of the inferiority of Negroes and of the wisdom and justice of a slave status for them."

Devoting six paragraphs to "Ante-Bellum Free Negroes" is highly commendable. The subject is frequently overlooked, yet it is crucial to the understanding of some of today's racial issues. Even as "free" men in the North, blacks endured ill treatment, although the passage describes individual and collective achievements of blacks during this period, in spite of

the obstacles they faced. Also reported are the work of blacks in the abolitionist movement, the rise of the black church and the black press, and the history of the American Colonization Society.

The short paragraph dealing with the Civil War makes the point that slavery as a moral issue and as the core of the Southern economic system or cultural pattern was an important cause of the war. Of the contribution of blacks to the war effort, there is only the positive value-judgment statement that "Negro participation as soldiers in the war was discouraged until relatively late; but, once admitted, they served faithfully in every theater." On the other hand, in the separate entry on the Civil War itself, there is a paragraph, "Negroes in the Armies," which restates black participation in more specific terms. Such integration of the material is desirable and enhances the worthiness of *Americana.*

The passage on Reconstruction is, and properly so, one of the longest and most detailed offered by the encyclopedias surveyed in this study. The revisionist historical scholarship it reflects gives a very positive view of the contributions of so-called "black Reconstruction." Beginning with the statement that "The state constitutions of 1867-68 and the governments they created were the most drastically progressive in Southern history," the passage goes on to catalogue the measures passed: "Indeed, the nature of the Reconstruction legislation was apparently so sound that, except for the provisions regarding Negro voting and office holding, most of the legislation was permitted to stand, with only slight modifications, for several decades after white rule had been restored." The discussion points out that "The picture of extreme corruption and stupidity characterizing many descriptions of Reconstruction government is one of considerable exaggeration."

It is, however, disappointing to note that the separate article on Reconstruction puts far less emphasis on positive elements of the Reconstruction governments and makes no mention of the black's role or participation other than that the "Black and tan administrations were frequently corrupt, piled up huge state debts in several instances, but also introduced some liberal legislative reforms." The last clause comes off as a kind of afterthought. On the whole, the article hardly integrates material on blacks and what it does state is almost offensive as well as inadequate.

The "Sharecropping System" is described as the significant economic development in the South during Reconstruction.

Following this, the article offers a 14-paragraph presentation on the "Development of the Southern Race System." The rise of the Jim Crow system in education and public facilities generally is described, showing how "Throughout the South, Negroes became by law limited citizens."

Lynchings as an important instrument of control are detailed, and, all in all, this is an excellent discussion of the race "system."

A long paragraph, "Booker T. Washington and the Rise of the NAACP," follows this topic. It reflects some highly subjective judgments approving Washington's Atlanta Compromise philosophy, which offered a conciliatory approach to the racial question, and his formula for racial advancement by economic development and vocational education.

A shorter paragraph then mentions W. E. B. DuBois' opposing policy of direct action and credits the NAACP with being "responsible, perhaps more than any other organized group, for the growing legal support of Negro rights." However, the separate article on DuBois himself gives an excellent review of the latter's career and philosophy.

Up to this point, this general article on black Americans was written by Charles S. Johnson. He is not included in the "Contributors to this Edition" section, so we cannot indicate his background other than that he is the author of a book, *Patterns of Black Segregation,* a fact noted in the article's byline.

The next section of the article, "Changing Status—20th Century," was prepared by the editorial staff of *Americana.* The introductory section indicates the tone and the authenticity of this very fine summary review of the contemporary black American: "The 20th Century saw great movement among American Negroes—actual migration to Northern urban centers, advancement in economic position, and political steps toward exerting pressures through a united Negro 'community.' Nevertheless, despite tremendous strides through federal legislation and legal action, the Negroes after mid-century lagged behind the white population in earning power, housing facilities, and educational opportunities. Moreover, the frustration of rising expectations brought despair and anger.

"In the 1960s, untenable living conditions, especially in the Northern ghettos, provoked widespread Negro rioting and acts of violence. This, in turn, exposed white racism—lurking behind and perhaps responsible for the disparity between Negroes and whites. Progress in civil rights was coupled with a rise in racial tensions, so that the slow but steady process of integration was beset by movements toward polarization."

Passages which follow deal with the topics of migration and urbanization, housing, employment and earnings, education, the slum family, civil rights (although this is a short single paragraph, the separate article, "Civil Rights and Liberties," to which the reader is referred, is a superb, comprehensive, and revealing analysis of the movement), political influence, disorders and racial tensions (which meets the issues head-on), and military

service. It is an up-to-date presentation of contemporary issues affecting blacks.

The next section, "Contributions to American Culture," was written by Arna Bontemps, a noted black writer and chief librarian at Fisk University. More than just a list of names, as in so many other sets dealing with black cultural achievements, this is a readable and informative survey of both the figures and their works. As in each of the previous sections, this one is followed by an admirable bibliography dominated in each instance by black writers. The article on American literature includes material on blacks as do other separate entries on American culture: poetry, drama, and music.

It is a source of gratification that this 1969 edition of a major encyclopedia does such an admirable job in its treatment of the black American. A survey of the index, revealing, as it does, over 300 individual entries dealing with black life and history, indicates at once that there is no neglect here. With the surprising exception of the piece on Reconstruction, the latest historical scholarship is reflected throughout the set (and even here the passage in the general article is one of the best presentations of Reconstruction among all encyclopedias). *Americana's* treatment of the subject of blacks is a tribute to the gains which have been made in the quest for judicious handling of this long-mishandled topic.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

(Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1968)

One comes to the *Britannica* with high expectations. This encyclopedia enjoys the highest reputation for its scholarship and comprehensiveness. Like a Cadillac among motor cars, *Britannica* has a hold on the public as the standard by which other encyclopedias are to be measured.

Written by John Hope Franklin, Rayford Logan, and Sterling Brown, the general article on black Americans had to be the best-written and most authoritative among those reviewed in this survey. And indeed it is. But just as one swallow does not make a summer, one strong article does not make for a maximum rating in this survey.

The introduction to the general article on black Americans is an outline of organization which anticipates the quality of the body of the article itself. It is a model of what any black-history course should cover:

I. The Slave Period
II. Economic Life
    1. Agriculture
    2. Domestic and Personal Service
    3. Industrial Workers

4. Professional and Business Men
5. Housing

III. Political History
1. From the Civil War to 1900
2. The 20th Century
3. Civil Rights
4. Nonviolent Protest
5. Extremist Movements

IV. Educational Developments
1. Post-Emancipation Years
2. The 20th Century

V. Military History

VI. Sports

VII. Cultural and Intellectual Developments
1. Religious and Social Organizations
2. Literature
3. The Dramatic Arts
4. Music
5. Art
6. Science, Law, and the Social Sciences
7. International Relations

VIII. Conclusion

The brutality of the whites — on the sea and on the land — is rarely mentioned.

The article begins with an excellent, useful survey of the black population in the United States before going into the material outlined above. This survey concludes with a subjective but provocative statement which conveys the tone and spirit of the entire article:

> "At the beginning of the 20th Century there was some thought that the Negro problem would solve itself by the gradual disappearance of the Negro as a racial group. The growth of the Negro population in the first half of the century, however, and the vigour of its participation in American life while retaining its separate identity seemed to indicate that this was not likely to occur. The Negro must be accepted as a permanent part of the body politic, and his status must be considered within the framework of the American social order."

While such an editorialized statement is probably exceptional for an encyclopedia, the fact is that past neglect if not outright distortion of this subject deserves, if not requires, exceptional approaches at this time.

From the very outset, the general article reflects the most current historical scholarship and provides readers with much of the black history which has for so long been unavailable. The opening sentence points out that black men accompanied the Spanish and Portuguese explorers in the early 16th Century and that "The first Negroes that landed at Jamestown were actually indentured servants." All the important details about slavery are included in the description of the "slave period," and not a significant fact nor a significant black figure is overlooked in this long passage. Most of the named black men also appear in separate entries.

Labor and housing receive the greatest attention in the section describing "Economic Life." The "Political History" section surveys in considerable detail persons, events, and legislation from the Civil War period through the present. It includes a long passage tracing the history of civil rights and offers an equally lengthy and detailed history of nonviolent protest. It is unfortunate, however, that the emergence of the black militant movement is not even suggested. Neither is the violence of the 1960s mentioned. While there is a passage dealing with "Extremist Movements," it focuses on the back-to-Africa movement of Marcus Garvey in the 1920s and the Black Muslims, which really anticipated the present militant organizations. Indeed, this topic is most inadequately and unsatisfactorily handled.

The "Cultural and Intellectual Developments" section is perhaps the most complete discussion of this topic among all sets included in the survey. There is a shorter section dealing with "Sports."

The four-page picture insert in the middle of the article is also the most comprehensive presentation among the encyclopedias reviewed in this survey. The bibliography at the end of the article is the longest of any in the sets reviewed and represents the best available works on the black

man, so as to give a strong foundation to any reader doing further research on any individual topic.

In the conclusion of the main article there appears a series of positive statements about the progress of black Americans, not yet complete, but "strong and sure, and his [the black man's] saga one of the high points of American history."

But to what extent does *Britannica* integrate black history with American history so that the reader turning to the entry on U.S. history, as distinguished from black history, will get a balanced picture? Here, this set does not always measure up to what one would wish. Even a comparatively minor item, such as the failure to include Crispus Attucks' name in the paragraph on the Boston Massacre of 1770, suggests the deficiencies of the *Britannica* in this area. The "Antislavery Impulse" paragraph discusses only Garrison and says nothing of the black abolitionist movement. Indeed, the separate entry on the Abolitionists contains only one sentence which refers to the black man: "Also, the activity of free Negroes, of whom Frederick Douglass was the most important, is not to be underestimated."

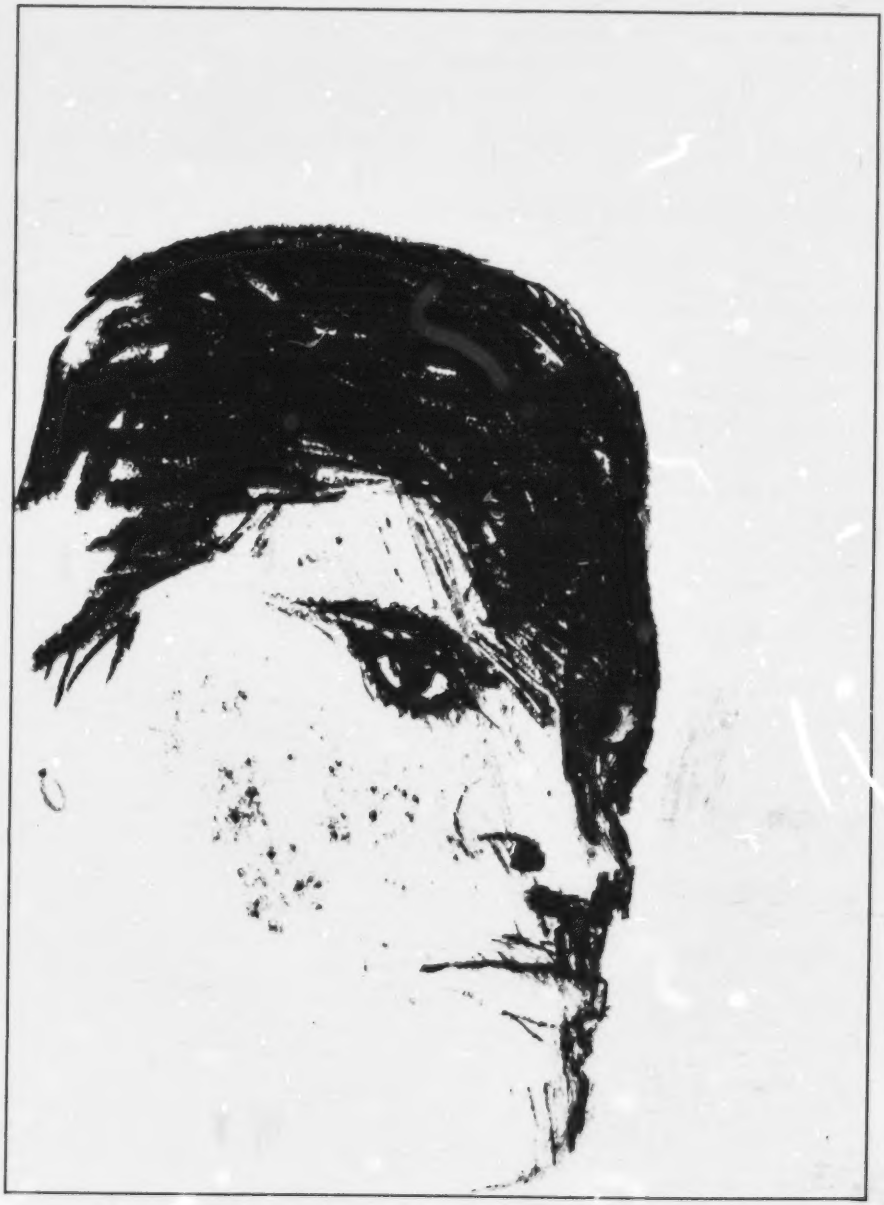
The *Britannica's* index shows only 50 entries under "Negro," evidence that the strength of this encyclopedia's treatment of the black American lies almost entirely in the general article. The small number of separate entries for black figures and events indicates that for all of its strengths noted in this review, *Britannica* has not integrated the black man into the set as a whole. As between this and its nearest competitor for popularity, *Americana*, it's really six of one and a half-dozen of the other. The general article in the latter is not as strong as that in *Britannica*. On the other hand, *Americana* offers far more separate entries as well as integrated material in other articles, and its index offers the researcher more clues.

ENCYCLOPEDIA INTERNATIONAL

(Grolier, Inc., 1968)

Another comparatively new encyclopedia (first published in 1964), *International* has been completely revised for this edition. Particularly outstanding in the social studies, it comes as no surprise that this set offers the best treatment of blacks among all sets covered in this survey. It is indeed in a class by itself and so outdistances all other sets in this subject field that it is difficult not to sound like a promotional piece here. *General Encyclopedias in Print 1968-9, A Comparative Analysis,* the Bible of encyclo-

A worthy soul who can become just as able as any other race . . . the 1960-1970 black: the result of the wretched, highly unfair treatment he has received from American whites.



pedia ratings for general use, gives *International* the same "top quality" rating awarded to *Britannica* and *Americana*. That *International* succeeds so well as a general encyclopedia and couples with it a truly integrated presentation of its material is a real achievement and a lesson for all other publications.

International sends out a special promotional brochure, "The Negro in the United States," which includes a reprint of its index. This index, with hundreds of separate entries apart from the general article on blacks, reflects its statement that it is a general encyclopedia "that contains the widest range of information about the black in the United States."

But its great achievement is the fact that *International* conscientiously integrates information on blacks within the body of the material rather than isolating such information in articles on black subjects. This is an ideal approach. It is somewhat embarrassing to this reviewer to present any one set in such high regard to a point where it reflects a promotional piece. Still, the fact of the matter is that the editors and publishers apparently set out to produce an "integrated" encyclopedia and they deserve credit for pretty much succeeding.

International's main article on the black is, under the circumstances, less significant and even less informative relative to the whole body of information on the black man in this set. Saunders Redding, the author of the article, is a "popular" historian who writes vivid, readable prose, as opposed to the heavy-handed, fact-littered articles which characterize writings by scholar-historians. Because *International* has hundreds of separate articles on the black man, as well as integrated material under other topic headings, there is no need to fatten the general article with long lists of names without indicating individual achievements. The general article here is a factual summary of the history of black Americans, from their arrival as indentured servants in 1619 to the present-day civil-rights movement. It is useful only as an introductory survey of the subject. It would hardly serve any research purpose. However, since there is enough well-indexed information throughout the 20-volume set, this is no loss. What the general article does effectively is to provide readers with a set of value judgments which ought to be conveyed in the light of contemporary scholarship and events. The reference to Booker T. Washington—who, in most other presentations, is treated with an overdose of reverence to the point of obscuring the real significance of the man—is here given a new perspective. Referring to his self-help efforts to improve the level of the black American, the encyclopedia describes Washington as ". . . an impressive man, but his attitude and his program were less impressive. The attitude was meek, the program modest to the point of servility." If this

judgment seems too harsh, the reader can turn to the individual entry on Washington, written by Arna Bontemps, who offers a more detailed account of Washington's achievements. But even here, the point is made that "There was increasing doubt as to whether it was possible for blacks to progress within the limits set by Washington." The issue is judiciously discussed and the reader is given a balanced presentation.

(It may be, nevertheless, that the general article is too subjective and too heavily charged with value judgments. A future edition might limit some of the exceedingly strong pronouncements on issues in black life and history. For so long there has been a need for just such positive statements that it is hard to criticize this aspect of the article. In the long run, however, and in order to assure its general acceptance, it may be the better part of wisdom to "tone down" some of the subjectivity of this particular article, however inconsistent this observation may be with our initial remarks!)

An example of the extent to which *International* goes to achieve its goal of an integrated encyclopedia is the index reference to Abolitionists. Under the main entry, 18 topics in other volumes are listed as related: *Freedom's Journal* (a black abolitionist newspaper; other sets ordinarily only refer to Garrison's *The Liberator,* Friends Society, Harper's Ferry, Lincoln; Negro in the U.S., Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society, Germantown Quakers, Republican party, slavery, Underground Railroad. This is followed by an entry, Negro Abolitionists, which includes 24 names. This is followed by white Abolitionists, containing 25 names.

Under Cultural Contributions in Literature, there are 31 listings. There is a further listing under United States Literature, so that a student researching literature in the United States will discover black contributions without having to turn to specific black entries, which he ordinarily could not do. This is the secret to achieving an integrated body of knowledge for our students.

For school and family libraries seeking a self-contained body of knowledge about black Americans so as not to require large numbers of individual specialized materials on black history, and yet have a "top quality" over-all rating for its general information, *International* is a clear-cut choice.

MERIT STUDENTS ENCYCLOPEDIA

(Crowell-Collier Educational Corp., 1968)

A completely new encyclopedia, first published in 1967, *Merit* has won praise from school librarians and is gaining increasing popularity in their

libraries. But in its coverage of blacks, *Merit* does not quite measure up to its apparent achievement in other subjects, although it rates close to some of the better sets reviewed in this survey.

John Hope Franklin, one of the leading black scholars in America, writes the general article on blacks. (Dr. Franklin, besides writing the article in the competitive *Britannica*, is also listed as a consultant in several other publishers' sets. Perhaps because he may be spreading himself too thin, there are some gaps which exist in his presentations.)

The "Student Guide" insert in *Merit's* article on blacks sets forth the publisher's goals:

> "This article traces the history of the American Negro from his background in Africa and entry as a slave into colonial America to his life as a citizen in the 20th-Century United States. Additional general material on Negroes can be found in such related articles as Civil War; Labor; Reconstruction; Slavery; United States Constitution; and United States History. Information on the Negro movement for equality can be found in such articles as Civil Rights and U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and in articles an such organizations as the NAACP and the Urban League. Outstanding Negroes are the subject of such separate articles as George Washington Carver, W. E. B. DuBois, and Martin Luther King, Jr."

While there are other separate entries for outstanding blacks beyond those suggested in the "Guide," there are not as many as there should be in an encyclopedia which seeks contemporary relevance. Further, the index references under "N[illegible]" do not include all the articles which appear in the set.

The general article, on the other hand, is a very satisfactory summary of black history, reflecting well the latest historical scholarship. As an example of Dr. Franklin's oversights, however, the article neglects to state that the first black persons to come to America accompanied the Spanish and Portuguese. Instead, the opening paragraph discusses and even emphasizes the slave trade from the 15th Century onward, leaving the impression that the first blacks to arrive in the New World were slaves. Yet, in describing the first blacks to arrive in the English colonies, Franklin does state, "The first Negroes brought to Virginia, in 1619, were indentured servants."

On the whole, the article is accurate and detailed. As in all of his encyclopedia articles, Franklin does not deal with the violent protest of the 1960s nor with the emergence of black militant groups. This is a serious omission and ought to be corrected in future editions.

There is a short, rather limited bibliography at the end of the article. Most of the titles are not appropriate for secondary-school students. A more comprehensive list ought to be drawn up by the editors.

The most serious criticism to be made of *Merit* is that—like most of the sets under review—it does not integrate comprehensively material on black

persons with its other articles. For example, a student looking up "Abolitionists" will find no information about black participation in that movement. If he happens to read the general article on the black man, he will find this information, but since there is not even a cross reference in the separate entry, the reader may never learn about this vital aspect of the movement. As the chart in the appendix to this report shows, *Merit* is one of the most serious offenders in this regard.

This reviewer admires this set as an all-around encyclopedia for young researchers. In terms of covering the black American, it simply does not match a number of the other sets reviewed here; nevertheless, the editors have made a creditable start—enough so that in future editions it should be easy for them to fill this gap and give it a top rating in this critical area, too.

THE NEW BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

(Grolier Educational Corp., 1969)

Under the subject heading of "Negro History," this set offers one of the longest (16 pages) general articles on blacks. The author of the entry is Saunders Redding, a "popular" historian whose writings are distinguished more by their readability than by their scholarship. (This is not to suggest that Redding's scholarship is deficient—it is, on the whole, excellent—but his subjectivity and value judgments raise the question of how much historical objectivity has been blurred by his writing.) It can be argued that a children's reference work, which *The New Book of Knowledge* is, ought to have style and readability as well as authenticity, and to the degree that this article achieves such goals it is a commendable work. The entry clearly reflects a considered interest and an effort to offer young readers a comparatively comprehensive presentation. One stylistic quirk, somewhat irritating to this reviewer, is Redding's frequent use of the quaint but archaic term "colored Americans" in place of "Negroes" or "blacks." The editors ought to consider consistency as well as taste in future editions and eliminate such usage.

The entry begins with a discussion of the "African Past," in which Redding describes Africans as "proud and dignified peoples, whose rich cultural heritage and civilization flourished under their own king, chiefs, and tribal lords." He cites the ancient Nile civilization and the early western African empires.

Under the subject heading of "Years of Bondage," the arrival of the first blacks in the New World, with Spanish exploratory expeditions to

Mexico and South America, is told. Mentioned are the names of Estevanico, the black discoverer of Arizona and New Mexico, and DuSable, the black man who established what was to become the city of Chicago. The description of the slave trade reflects the best scholarship, and in his narrative of the gradual development of slavery, Redding shows that the slave status of blacks was not inherent but imposed. The role of black Americans in the Revolution is emphasized, and not only the name of Crispus Attucks but that of Peter Salem, one of the heroes of Bunker Hill, gets mention.

At this point appears a boxed feature, "Important Dates in Negro History," whose format and content render it useful.

The next topic, "Slave Life," gives a balanced view of the treatment of slaves and details the resistance of the slaves to their plight. While most sets mention all three of the major slave revolts, this article omits the Gabriel Prosser episode and refers only to Vesey and Turner.

Especially worthwhile is the topic "Free Negroes." A number of "free" blacks who achieved something in spite of the obstacles faced by them are mentioned.

"Freedom Gained and Lost" deals with the Civil War. Here Redding is on questionable ground when he insists that "the causes of the war were political and economic. . . . It was not to emancipate (free) the slaves." Revisionist historians have taken the position that the cause of the war was essentially the moral issue of slavery. In any case, there is a paragraph on the contribution to the war which was made by blacks themselves. The description of the valuable work of the Freedmen's Bureau is impressive. (Most writers either overlook this or are unsympathetic about the achievements of the Bureau.)

The "Reconstruction Period" passage is disappointingly inadequate. It fails to deal with the work of the Reconstruction governments in the South after the war. Robert Smalls is the only black figure of this period mentioned. While he did serve as a Congressman from South Carolina for 12 years, the names of Blanche Bruce and Hiram Revels, who were Senators from Mississippi, certainly are of equal, if not greater, importance. Reconstruction is an essential part of black history, and to treat it as inadequately as it is presented here leaves a major gap. Nor is this deficiency made up for by the separate entry on Reconstruction. While the two accompanying illustrations show (1) black students in a schoolroom and (2) radical leaders welcoming John W. Menard, the first black elected to Congress, there is no discussion of Reconstruction governments and the role of blacks in these governments. There is a concluding value-judgment statement that, at the end, the South "had not been reconstructed. . . . He (the black) had

been given freedom but not equality." This is a good statement, but it does not overcome the generally poor treatment of the topic.

"After Reconstruction" describes the development of segregation patterns in the South: "As time passed, the color line was drawn. . . . It divided blacks from whites as surely as if it had been a brick wall." The literary style makes the point more impressive for the younger reader.

In the report of Booker T. Washington's program of self-help and vocational training, Redding declares that "The program said nothing about civil rights or political action or social equality. It said nothing about educating blacks to be doctors, lawyers, engineers, or workers in other professions. Many blacks felt that Washington's program would keep them inferior economically, politically, and culturally; that it would keep them segregated." This is an excellent challenge to Washington's philosophy, but it is made as part of the article rather than through the words of W. E. B. DuBois, which would have been the proper way to deal with the controversial nature of Washington's program. Du Bois' philosophy and the founding of the NAACP are briefly described as a challenge to Washington's work.

In depicting the rise of the black church, Redding states that ". . . as the only institution free from the white man's control and interference, the Negro church became the center of social life and community activity."

"Although Negroes were denied most of the rights and benefits of American life, they remained steadfast in their patriotism" is the way the passage leads to a description of black men's contribution in the Spanish-American War and their little-known role in the battle for San Juan Hill. Not only is the statement gratuitous, it is not worthy: the Spanish-American War is nothing of which Americans, white or black, can be very proud. "World War I" deals not only with the problems of segregation in the armed services and the contributions of blacks in the war itself, but also relates the racial riots and Southern lynchings which characterized the war years. In spite of this, the article notes that ". . . 400,000 Negroes went eagerly into service." Redding's use of "eagerly" is another example of a gratuitous statement which may be appropriate enough in popular histories but hardly worthy of an objective reference work.

"Protest and Progress" is a brief description of the 1919 racial riots and of Marcus Garvey's "back-to-Africa" movement. These episodes are too often overlooked and their inclusion here is important.

The "Negro Renaissance" dealing as it does with the cultural contributions of Harlem blacks in the 1920s, is largely a list of black names rather than a useful description of the work of the figures simply mentioned. Under the heading "Politics" there is not much more than a list of black

politicians or statesmen, coupled with several photographs, as in the passage on the Harlem renaissance.

Introducing the passage on "World War II," Redding again offers his young readers a subjective statement: "When World War II broke out, Negroes were again called on to fight. Again they were expected to make sacrifices to protect freedoms that they were not allowed to enjoy." The passage itself is a fine description of the heroism of blacks in this war and of the desegregation of the armed services. "Years of Change" is largely a listing of contemporary American blacks who have entered into "the mainstream of American life." There are several accompanying photographs, ranging from sports figures like Willie Mays to historian-scholar John Hope Franklin.

"Housing" is a short passage explaining how segregated housing still continues *de facto,* in spite of legislation, and its relation to segregation in the schools.

"Education" traces the movement from the "separate-but-equal" *Plessy v. Ferguson* case in 1896 to *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, but does not mention the names of either of these landmark cases. The discussion is, in any case, inadequate and the omission of the names of these cases a serious one. This is followed by a good single paragraph on "Voting," in which the point is made that "Inequalities in education helped to continue economic and political inequalities." The next paragraph, on "Employment," shows the reader why the employment rate among blacks compared to whites is lower: "Jobs of many types were closed to Negroes because Negroes had not been given opportunities to learn the necessary skills." Under the heading "Travels," the freedom rides are discussed.

"The Continuing Struggle" discusses nonviolent kneel-ins, sit-ins, and stand-ins, and the civil-rights work of whites and blacks together. As for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "The bill did not go far enough, and its provisions were too often ignored." The advent of black militancy and the reasons for the development of the "black-power" movement are complemented by well-balanced presentation of the philosophies of the established black organizations and the newer militant groups. The violence of the summers of 1965, 1966, and 1967 is covered.

The last paragraph of the article deals with the Civil Rights Bill of 1968 and concludes, "It suggests that the United States means to live up to its promise of equality for all men, without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin." However commendable this statement is, it still does not seem to be appropriate for a reference article. But perhaps persuasion as well as information is proper in a work of this kind.

The article is followed by a cross-reference to "Related Articles:" "Civil Liberties and Civil Rights," "Civil War," "Reconstruction Period," "Segregation," "Slavery," and "Underground Railroad."

There is very little integration of black history with other articles. For example, the article on the Civil War makes no mention of black participation. In fact, in relating background causes of the war, the article erroneously states that the first group of blacks to have arrived in Jamestown in 1619 were slaves who were ". . . sold to the colonists," when they were, according to the set's general article on the blacks and current historical scholarship, indentured servants. The "American Literature" entry does contain some reference to black writers and their writings, but nothing is found elsewhere. It should be noted, however, that the article "United States" does contain a good passage on the status of blacks in American history. The index reference to "Negro" is comparatively short, offering only 30 entries. Fewer than half refer to black American history. No black names appear here, so that if a student reader wishes to get information about black leaders, he has to know who they are before he starts out. In the alternative, he could turn to the general article on the black, find names by reading through the entire article, and then search out the volume containing the first letter of the last name and see if, indeed, there are separate entries for those persons. The number of such separate articles or entries is rather limited. For a 1969 edition not to contain a separate article on Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall is inexcusable and points up the lack of adequacy of this set. Nevertheless, Grolier, on the whole, is somewhat better than most other encyclopedia publishers. But *The New Book of Knowledge* needs improvement.

THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA*

(Field Enterprises Educational Corp., 1969)

The general article on the black American in *World Book* is by Edgar Allen Toppin, a professor of history at Virginia State College. His article, the editors note, was "critically reviewed" by John Hope Franklin and Thurgood Marshall. It is a first-rate presentation.

Starting with the topic of "The Negro in Africa," in which it is related

* Publisher's note: *World Book* continues to be printed at the strikebound Kingsport Press, Inc., in Tennessee. A number of school districts have decided whenever possible, not to purchase books printed at Kingsport. The American Federation of Teachers supports the position that, all other factors being equal, books produced by strikebreakers should not be purchased with public funds.

that "highly developed Negro kingdoms existed in various parts of Africa hundreds of years ago," and in which details of their achievements are given, the article then offers a six-paragraph description of the slave trade. The discussion informs of the important distinctions between the nature of African slavery and that of the Western world: in Africa, the slaves were kept by kings and not by the general population; both masters and slaves were black; and, further, "It was considered an insult both to the master and the slave to refer to a person's status as slave."

The horrors of the slave trade to America are described in graphic detail, and the author points out that "Sometimes slaves killed themselves, preferring death to their ordeal" on the slave ships in transit.

The discussion of slavery in America is subdivided into several historical periods. Pre-Revolutionary development is discussed in detail, and the role of blacks in the American Revolution is treated. Then follows a description of the "legal development" of slavery up to the period of the Constitution. Two of the best-known blacks of this period—Phillis Wheatley and Benjamin Banneker—are brought to the attention of the reader. The third and fourth periods discussed are "The Growth of Slavery" (from the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 to the Civil War) and "Free Negroes." This last section, too often overlooked in encyclopedias, points out that blacks who had been "freed" from slavery never really enjoyed equality, and when the majority of blacks became "free" after the Civil War they simply joined the second-class citizenship held by these few "free" brothers.

The next topic, "Changing Status of the Negro," includes a disappointing subtopical discussion of the Abolitionist movement. *World Book* does not include a separate entry on this subject. The presentation in the general article is neither useful nor adequate, and a student is unlikely to get any significant information of the Abolitionists from the presentation. The Underground Railroad rates a two-sentence discussion, but there is a reference to a separate article in this case.

"Emancipation," the next subtopic, traces the life of the black American after the Civil War. It is a very summary presentation, not as detailed as it should be. On the other hand, some subjects which are glossed over in the general article are, in some cases, fully discussed in separate entries. The "Reconstruction" entry, for example, written by T. Harry Williams and "critically reviewed" by Bruce Catton, includes a detailed, graphically illustrated presentation. Yet, to this reviewer at least, it does not deal enough with the positive black contributions toward better government which recent historical scholarship has brought to light.

"After Reconstruction" traces the origins and growth of separate race patterns in both the South and the North. It mentions the achievements and

conflicts surrounding the lives of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois. While the origins and work of the NAACP and the Urban League are only briefly cited here, related articles on both organizations appear as separate entries.

The role of the black American "Through the World Wars" is described in the concluding subtopic and includes information on the contribution made by black military men during both wars as well as the contributions of civilian blacks in a variety of professional careers during the first part of the 20th Century.

The "Civil Rights Movement" is *World Book's* next topic, and it includes an excellent analysis of the history of the movement, beginning with the legal victories of the 1950s and continuing with "The Negro Revolution" of the 1960s. The violence of the mid-60s is openly treated, and the article distinguishes itself from most other encyclopedia treatments by including the topic of "Negro Militancy." A subtopic, "Unrest in the Cities," discusses urban riots. Nor is there any pussyfooting in the other subtopical discussion, "Black Power." Few are so forthright in dealing with realities: "Black power called for Negroes to meet violence with violence." The complete discussion is provocative and informative and unusually subjective for an encyclopedia piece. Nevertheless, it is the kind of writing which contributes to student understanding of current, crucial issues.

A survey of leading black men in government at all levels is offered in the concluding section, "The Negro Today," whose last paragraphs deal with economic and social issues, such as the role of the Vietnam War in inhibiting economic advancement. The last sentence, necessarily ambiguous, notes, "By the late 1960s, the future appeared uncertain. Some sensed a trend toward peaceful integration. Others predicted increased racial strife and growing social and economic separation of the races."

At the end of the article appears a list of just over 100 related articles carried elsewhere in the set. While the number is somewhat impressive, it is not as large as several other encyclopedias offer. "Jazz Musicians and Singers" contains the largest number of such related entries, and this, certainly, should not be.

The half-dozen "Questions" for students are dull and useless. Is "Who was the first Negro to attain the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army?" really significant?

As a general encyclopedia for students, *World Book* is readable, reliable, and deserves its widespread popularity. But as far as its treatment of the black man is concerned, it reflects a very deliberate effort to meet both the market and the standards of scholarship. On the whole, it succeeds pretty well, but not as well as several of its competitors.

The Curricular Viewpoints Series of the AFT is a service for members. Through this series, subject matter experts from within the classroom, and from without, present original monographs designed to improve teacher understanding of what they teach and how they teach it.

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